Telecast of misguiding programmes by TV channels

717. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether programmes related to astrology and future predictions telecast by most of the TV channels misguide people on various social, matrimonial, financial and business issues;

(b) whether such information is proposed to be permitted by the Government unrestricted;

(c) whether the principles of scientific temper enshrined in the Constitution and in Twenty-Point-Programme has been rendered redundant; and

(d) whether Government proposes to take any action in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) No such complaint has been brought to the notice of the Government.

(b) There is no such proposal.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) All programme and advertisements telecast on TV channels transmitted/retransmitted through the Cable TV network, are required to adhere to the Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder. Action is taken as per rules whenever violation of Codes are brought to the notice of the Government.

Regularization of services of SC/ST officers

718. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Director General of AIR and Doordarshan belonging to SC/ST category since the formation of Indian Broadcasting Programme Service (IBPS) cadre;

(b) whether it is a fact that senior most IBPS officer is officiating as acting DG and senior most officer in AIR belonging to minority community have not been regularized under reserved category for the post of DG Doordarshan;

(c) if so, reasons therefor; and

(d) whether CAT has passed an order for regularization of their services and if so, reasons for not implementing the orders of CAT?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Reservation for SC/ST is not applicable for the post of DG, AIR and DG, Doordarshan. Since the formation of Indian Broadcasting Programme Service [IB(P)S] on 05-11-1990, the following officers of IB(P)S belonging to SC category have held the office of DG, AIR and DG, Doordarshan:—

AIR

1. Shri A. R. Shinde (04.03.1987 to 03.06.1991)

2. Shri T.R. Malakar (28.02.2001 to 28.02.2002)

Doordarshan

Shri L.D. Mandloi is holding the current duty charge of the post since 24.08.2006 in addition to his own duties, on a temporary basis, pending filling up of the post on a regular basis.

(b) to (d) The process for filling up the posts of DG, AIR and DG, Doordarshan on a regular basis is in progress. The Hon' ble CAT Principal Bench New Delhi in an OA filed by Shri L.D. Mandloi directed for regularizing the period of his adhoc service in the SAG of IB (P)S. However, this order has been challenged before the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi where the matter is *sub judice*. The Hon'ble High Court, *vide* its interim order, has directed that the selection process for the post of DG, Doordarshan may continue but shall not be finalized. Ms Noreen Naqvi, another IB (P)S officer of AIR also filed an OA before the Hon'ble CAT, Principal Bench, New Delhi for treating her ad hoc service in SAG of IB (P)S as regular service. The Hon'ble Tribunal has disposed of the OA with the direction to grant her the same benefits (of regularizing her ad hoc service in SAG) as have been granted to Shri L.D. Mandloi by the Hon'ble Tribunal. This order of Hon'ble Tribunal is also the process of being challenged before the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi.

Opinion seeking through SMS by TV channels

†719. SHRI BANWARI LAL KANCHHAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that after showing any exclusive report on any topic, T.V. channels ask for their opinions from the public in the form of SMS by doing illusive publicity for making SMS;

(b) whether it causes heavy expenditure to general public and the T.V. channels are becoming more and more prosperous by doing so;

(c) whether Government is considering to stop the practice of asking of opinions through SMS on TV channels; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) No complaint regarding such illusive publicity has been received.

(b) No study/survey has been conducted by the Government in the matter.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Unemployed youth registered in employment exchanges

720. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of total unemployed youth registered in the Employment Exchanges throughout the country;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.